

NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

OFFICE N. W. CORNER OF FULTON AND NASSAU STS.

TERMS, cash in advance. Money sent by mail will be at the rate of the market. Postage stamps not received as subscription money.

THE DAILY HERALD, two cents per copy, 57 per annum. THE WEEKLY HERALD, every Saturday, of six cents per copy, or \$3.50 per annum. The European Edition \$4 per annum. A copy of the European Edition, or \$4 in any part of the Continent, both to include postage.

THE FAMILY HERALD, every Wednesday, at four cents per copy, or \$2 per annum.

VOLUNTARY CORRESPONDENCE, containing important news, selected from all quarters of the world, is sent to the Editors of the DAILY HERALD, and is published in the DAILY HERALD, and is sent to the Editors of the WEEKLY HERALD, and is published in the WEEKLY HERALD, and is sent to the Editors of the FAMILY HERALD, and is published in the FAMILY HERALD.

ADVERTISEMENTS received every day; advertisements in the DAILY HERALD, at the rate of \$1.00 per line for the first week, and \$0.50 for each subsequent week. Advertisements in the WEEKLY HERALD, at the rate of \$1.00 per line for the first week, and \$0.50 for each subsequent week. Advertisements in the FAMILY HERALD, at the rate of \$1.00 per line for the first week, and \$0.50 for each subsequent week.

NO NOTICE taken of anonymous correspondents. We do not return rejected communications.

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Volume XXIII.....No. 503

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway.—Representing—GIVEN AT THE THEATRE.

BOHEMIA THEATRE, Broadway.—Representing—THE BOHEMIAN.

BURTON'S NEW THEATRE, Broadway.—Much and about nothing—My Overcoat.

WALLACE'S THEATRE, Broadway.—Representing—THE WALLACE.

LAURA KERR'S THEATRE, No. 434 Broadway.—Our American Cousin—Loan of a Lover.

BARNUM'S AMERICAN MUSEUM, Broadway.—Afternoon and evening performances. Representing—THE BARNUM.

STROCK'S MINSTER BUILDING, 561 and 563 Broadway.—Representing—THE STROCK.

MECHANICAL DRAWING, 44 Broadway.—Representing—THE MECHANICAL.

CAMPBELL'S MINSTER, 44 Broadway.—Representing—THE CAMPBELL.

New York, Friday, December 31, 1858.

To Paper Manufacturers and Agents.

The proprietor of the New York Herald wants to make arrangements for a constant supply of printing paper, such as the Herald is printed upon, to the amount of 1,000 to 1,500 reams per week, payable in cash at the end of each week. Apply immediately.

The New York Weekly Herald.

AFFAIRS IN WASHINGTON—NEWS FROM EUROPE, CALIFORNIA, CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA, MEXICO, CUBA, WEST INDIES, ETC.—LATEST INTELLIGENCE—MARKETS, ETC., ETC.

In consequence of New Year's day falling on Saturday, the Weekly Herald for this week will be published at five o'clock this evening. Its contents will embrace—News from Europe, California, Central America, New Granada, the South Pacific, the Sandwich and Feejee Islands, Mexico, Cuba, the West Indies, &c.—Affairs in Washington—The Gold Crop of the United States for Twenty Years—Editorial on Leading Topics of the Day—Latest News by Telegraph—Financial, Commercial, Religious, Theatrical, Sporting and Maritime Intelligence—Weekly Review of the New York City Market—Marriages and Deaths. Together with a large variety of interesting local and miscellaneous items. Single copies, in wrappers, ready for mailing, can be had at the counter. Price six cents.

The News.

We publish this morning very interesting reports of the progress already made by some of the vessels of the Paraguay fleet towards the Parana river. The steamers Fulton, Harriet and the Herald, put into Pernambuco for coal. The Fulton and Water Witch left that port on the 26th ult., and the Harriet Lane took her departure on the 28th of that month. The steamers encountered heavy southeasterly gales, with a strong adverse equinoctial current, after leaving Barbadoes, and were thus delayed on the voyage. All behaved nobly but were forced to put into Maranhao and Cirra, as stated. The Brazilians and foreigners resident in Pernambuco sympathized cordially with the objects of our government, and entertained but little doubt that Lopez would strike his colors without a fight after causing as much expense as possible. The Fulton was appointed to take Commissioner Bowlin up the Parana. All the crews were in excellent health and spirits. A complimentary address had been presented to ex-Consul Clements, of the United States, by the trading firms in Pernambuco.

The letter of our correspondent at St. Thomas, published in another column, states that the United States steamer Atlanta, of the Parana fleet, had arrived there for the purpose of obtaining a supply of coal. Gen. Paez was on board the Atlanta. He had not suffered any unusual discomfort on account of his wounded foot, and was improving in health.

Our Valparaiso correspondent, writing on the 16th ult., states that during the late fire in that city the private residence as well as the business office of the American Consul was burnt, but that only a few of our countrymen resided in the burnt district.

It was expected that Gov. King would yesterday issue a proclamation removing the troops from Staten Island. It was delayed, however, owing to the non-receipt of documents from the Sheriff of Kings county.

Captain McClure has been appointed to the command of the Home squadron, in place of Com. McIntosh, who returns home on account of ill health.

The Tammany democracy held their primary elections last evening, to choose delegates to the General Committee for the year 1859. Everything passed off quietly, except in the Seventeenth ward, where there was a slight row. The anti-Tammany folks did not participate, and the regulars, who met last night, announced their intention of issuing a call for primary elections of their own.

The movements of Senator Douglas, General Houston and Speaker Orr, now in this city, are fully detailed in our columns to-day. Mr. Douglas received his friends at the Everett Hotel, but had no public demonstration. Mr. Orr received his friends at the City Hall, and made a speech in reply to a congratulatory address from Mayor Tiemann. General Houston received his visitors quietly at the Metropolitan. Mr. Douglas will receive his friends at the City Hall to-day, and will be serenaded in the evening.

Michael Canale, tried for the fourth time for the murder of policeman Eugene Anderson, and convicted on the last trial of manslaughter in the first degree, will be brought up this morning before the general term of the Supreme Court for sentence. The punishment is imprisonment for life or not less than ten years.

The Board of Aldermen met last evening. Considerable routine business was transacted, and reports concerning the expediency of laying down Belgian pavement in Fourth avenue, from Seventh street to Thirty-second street, and in the Fifth avenue, from Washington square to Forty-second street, were adopted. Alderman Tucker moved to discharge the "Swill Milk Committee" from further labors, but the motion was cut off by a move to adjourn until two o'clock to-day.

The Board of Councilmen were also in session last evening, but the business was of a routine character. A resolution directing the Street Commissioner to cause to be opened a carriage way across the lower end of the Park was lost and laid on the table. A petition of Wm. B. Astor and others in favor of extending Beekman street across the Park was laid on the table. The report of the Conference Committee in favor of the construction of a wooden building in the Park, to be used as a temporary location for the steam fire engines, was concurred in. They also concurred with the Aldermen to pave Fourth avenue from Beekman street to

Thirty-second, with Belgian pavement, and a journey to meet to-day at twelve o'clock.

The general holiday on the 1st of January being close at hand, combined with the inclemency of the weather, almost suspended transactions in trade yesterday. With the exception of cotton and one or two other articles, the business done was very light. The sales of cotton, however, reached about 500 bales; about 1,200 or 1,400 were in transit. The rest of the pen or otherwise we were made to give 51,000 bales in yesterday's edition as the sales of the previous day, when 2,100 were made—a fact no doubt quite obvious to the trade. The market yesterday closed with more steadiness, without notable change in prices. Flour was rather firmer, especially for common grades of State and Western. Wheat and corn were held with steadiness, while sales were limited. Pork was down and lower, with sales of old mess at \$17 a \$17 1/2, new do. at \$17 70 a \$17 75, old prime at \$18, and new do. at \$18.50. Sugars were quiet, sales having been checked by the severity of the snow storm, while they only embraced 50 hides, Cuba at 70c a 8c, and New Orleans on terms giving in another place. Coffee was also quiet, and sales trifling. Freight was unchanged, and engagements limited. 600 bales cotton were taken to Liverpool 5.10c, a 5.20, 1,200 bales, crude turpentine at 2c 7/8, and 200 bales, pork at 2c 6/8.

The European Outcry against the President's Message—Can Cuba be Purchased?

The excitement that has been caused in Cuba by the bold and energetic language of the President's Message is but an indication of the outcry we shall have from Europe in a few days, from the same cause.

From Madrid, Paris and London we may look for a general outburst against the American policy that has been so ably laid down by Mr. Buchanan. But this is nothing more than what we expected. The conservators of European theories and the sycophants of European despotisms are fierce haters of everything that smacks of American progress; and they howl and hiss whenever the United States takes a new step in advance, or announces a principle to be sustained before the world. The noise of their outcry and the fierceness of their anger are always in exact proportion to the true value of the act or principle sustained; and therefore we may know from the measure of their attacks the worth of the principle they oppose. Some of our own old fogey journals, who habitually side with those of Europe whenever a question of American policy is concerned, have recently awakened to the fact that the policy proposed to be established by the administration of Mr. Buchanan may not quite suit the Derbys, Waleskies and O'Donnells of Europe, and they have begun to give play to their natural instincts, and howl against it.

But in proportion as the outcry comes from the European interests against the policy of the President's Message, so will the support of it from our own people increase in strength and numbers. Before another year has rolled round we may have an elucidation of Robert J. Walker's idea of what a popular man is. On one occasion, when Mr. Polk was President, the Secretaries were discussing at a Cabinet dinner their respective prospects for the Presidency. In the course of the conversation Mr. Walker addressed Mr. Buchanan pretty nearly in these terms:—"You are a prominent man, have a statesman's reputation, a fine intellect, a broad knowledge of men and things in this country and Europe, and are strong on all sides; but you want one great thing to be a popular man." "What is that?" said Mr. Buchanan. "Why," said Walker, "you have not got the devil in you, and no man can be popular unless he has the devil in him." "Well," replied Mr. Buchanan, "no one knows where the devil is until he has shown himself." In the workings of the policy laid down in the Message we may yet find that there is more of the devil than any one anticipates.

Instead of reasoning on probabilities, we will take one fact that has already developed itself. In speaking of Spain, Mr. Buchanan complains that our intercourse with Cuba is subjected to continual trouble, because of the want of power in the Captain General of Cuba to treat international questions. The Captain General replies, in the semi-official press of Havana, that he is a subordinate to the crown, and asks if the Governor of California has any power to treat similar questions. So far goes the theory. But let us look now at the practice. Certain difficulties occur between the Spanish Consul and merchants at Tampico and Governor Garza. The Captain General of Cuba sends Captain Topete down there with two or three war vessels, and orders him to protect the Spanish merchants. The difficulties are arranged between Garza and Topete, subject to the approval of the Captain General of Cuba. No mention is made of Madrid, or the Queen, or the Court. The Captain General does not approve of it; and assuming to himself the powers of arbiter and protector of all Spanish interests in America, orders Topete to obtain the money or blow down the city. Here we have theory and practice.

The policy which Mr. Buchanan would adopt, and which it depends upon Congress to sanction, would do away with all this. The Captain General of Cuba should have the same authority to give satisfaction that he has to demand it, and our government would do well to adopt the Topete diplomacy in bringing the Cuban authorities to account. When Gov. Garza referred to his superior authority, the Spanish commander, acting under orders, ignored all Presidents and national Powers. Why should not we ignore kings and queens in settling with Cuba? The excitement caused in Cuba by the recommendation of the President to Congress to authorize its purchase, and the appropriation of a sum for preliminary payments, shows that the measure recommended by the President is a living measure, and goes home to the subject. It will also cause a great commotion in Europe; and if Congress follows out the suggestion and grants the authority and money as offered, it will make a still greater impression there. We are told that we cannot buy Cuba. Then there is no harm done in giving the authority to purchase, and the money will not be spent. And if it does not buy Cuba, the very fact of Congress approving the policy will gain us something. Spain will see that we are in earnest, and may come up to the scratch, and settle all other points at issue between us.

But we are not so sure that Cuba cannot be purchased, notwithstanding the loud assertions to that effect. Mr. Buchanan has asked for the means to make preliminary payments, and he would not have done this had he not had good reason to suppose that something can be done with the Court of Spain. Congress should, therefore, by all means, give him the opportunity to avail himself of the favorable conjuncture he may see for carrying out this high step in our national advance; and the louder the European outcry against it, the more is the reason why the President should be armed with the money. If Spain is so resolved and so virtuous, what danger does she incur by the simplest of our Congress? And if she runs no danger, why make such a powder? We suspect some other feeling than one of confidence is at the bottom of the outcry of the Cuban officials; and certainly they know their own court best.

The Desecration of New Year's Day.

The political and social demoralization of a people always proceed with equal and exact steps. In this city the municipal government has been gradually growing more and more corrupt, weak and inefficient during the last twenty years. It has been administered generally by irresponsible and disreputable persons, who have attached to their skirts a crowd of leeches clamoring violently for the spoils. If any respectable or responsible man found himself among these cormorants, he was glad to get out of such company as soon as possible. The politicians, as a sort of security for their tenures of office, have been the ready advocates and protectors, before the law, of the bullies who control the primary elections and monopolize the polls. This evil example has not been without its moral effect upon the rising generation, and the city of New York can now produce a more plentiful crop of juvenile rowdies, scamps and scoundrels, than any other metropolis in Christendom. Encouraged by the companionship, counsel and example of rascals older than themselves, these young rowdies think there can be no limit to the exercise of their peculiar appetites, and they act upon that hypothesis.

On ordinary occasions, the exploits of the rowdy population are usually confined to their own special cliques, but in a season of general festivity like the holidays which we are now enjoying, the barrier between them and the respectable classes of the community is impaired if not broken down altogether. They make New Year's day the period of a Bacchanalian festival of the most disgraceful character. It should be properly the time for a general settlement for all the shortcomings and errors of the past year, and a hopeful, earnest desire to avoid similar derelictions in the future. Interchanges of friendly courtesies between neighbors and intimate friends is proper upon New Year's day, as a matter of course; but there is really no more special occasion to pay a visit than on any other day of the year. In fact, with the usual influx of bores and fellows who know nothing of the ordinary courtesies and proprieties of life, the practice of New Year's visiting has become so far unpleasant that many persons, visited and visitors, have dropped it altogether. The voluntary abrogation of the custom seems to be fast almost accomplished. It is abrogated the moment that it ceases to be a universal rule to pay or to receive visits, especially on that day. In the fashionable world it was once the custom to issue invitations to *societes* to persons who had the *entree* of the house on New Year's day; but that has been done away with long ago, and the mere fact that a man visits a house on New Year's day gives him no warrant to enter its doors again on any pretence. Nothing could keep up the custom of New Year's visits were it not for the vanity of some silly women, who boast of the number of "calls" they have had during the day. Of all the small female ambitions this is the pettiest. It is gratifying to know, however, that the custom in its exigency has received a severe blow at the hands of many respectable people, who will not permit their hearts to be invaded and the household gods polluted by prying strangers, with their strings of common place and dull, ceremonious compliments. A heavy snow fall and no refreshments will nearly do the business for the great bulk of New Year's callers to-morrow. The snow we are pretty sure of, the absence of creature comforts will be marked, as we learn, on all hands.

EXTRAORDINARY DILIGENCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL.—If the two boards of the Common Council had only exercised the same diligence and activity in the right direction during their whole term of office which characterize the closing hours of their career, they might have provided some measures of good government, if it was possible for any good to emanate from such a source. They have met daily for the last week, and each board seems to vie with the other as to which shall excel in the silliness of their proceedings. The attempts to re-organize the departments of Street Commissioner and City Inspector, which have occupied their time for the past few days, used up so much stationery, and cost so much money for printing reports, are nothing more than a reproduction of the Charter, with a few small alterations, for the most part creating some minor offices, to satisfy the maws of hungry office seekers. The probability is that the resolutions on this question of neither board will be assented to by the other; and if they should happen to do so, it is still more probable that the Mayor will veto them.

The members of the Common Council would be better employed if they spent the last week of their official existence in doing penance in sackcloth and ashes for the misdeeds of the past year.

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA.—Whatever objections may be taken to the metropolitan pretensions of New York by large country villages, such as Boston and Philadelphia, the justice of its claims is daily made evident by the fact that when any one has got a particular intention to push an article to exhibit, or an object to sell, he makes his way straight to our city. No political reputation can be properly endorsed, no position of any kind can be firmly established, until it has passed through the advent of our fair. New York is, in short, the great exhibition ground or trotting out course of all the pretensions—literary, scientific, artistic and political—of all the celebrities, domestic and foreign, which seek to curry favor with the American public.

For some time past our city has been unusually alive with these rivalries. We have had exhibitions of new operas and of new opera singers; we have had exhibitions of new preachers on a new stage; we have had exhibitions of new inventions and new inventors; and now we have an exhibition of new Presidential candidates. Close after the bewildering excitement of a Piccolomini campaign, we have the campaign of the aspirants to the honors of the chief magistracy. Between the number at present here and those that may shortly be expected to follow, we shall soon have sufficient to make up a grand procession and pageant, after the style of one of Mr. Wallace's revivals. Foremost in the list is the Senator from Illinois, Mr. Douglas, one of the most distinguished and talented of contemporary American statesmen. Next comes the venerable Senator from Texas, General Sam Houston, who has rather strong ideas upon the subject of an American protectorate for Mexico. Then we have the Hon. James L. Orr, of South Carolina, Speaker of the House of Representatives, an excellent head for a turbulent body, and, generally speaking, a sound national politician. These are all good candidates, so long as they continue candidates; but what they might become in the event of their finding themselves Presidents, is more than human foresight can be expected to

edit. Of their judgment in one respect, however, we can speak approvingly, and that is in their submitting themselves to the personal inspection and approval of our New York politicians. Nowhere will their weak points be more keenly appreciated or more critically discussed; and if they can pass in safety through such an ordeal, they may go their way in confidence and rejoicing. The people of New York have shown so much discrimination in the selection of the governing heads of their city that the slightest indication of their preference for a particular candidate for the Presidency will not doubt be responded to admiringly by all sections of the Union. Let the other Presidential aspirants, therefore, come on and enter the field of competition with their rivals. If New York is to decide the selection of the executive she should have the full list to choose from.

MODERN ENTERPRISE.—A GLANCE AT THE CYCLOPEAN PROJECTS OF THE DAY.—The fabulous works of the Cyclopean race that peopled the earth in the ages after the Flood are far outdone by the real works of men of the present age. The giants have to yield the palm to the pygmies. The Pyramids, and those vast ruins that attest the energy and power of the nations that have passed, away pale into insignificance before the great and practical works which the mind and industry of the modern nations have achieved, or on which they are engaged.

It is difficult to realize the immensity of the projects which occupy the attention of the people of to-day; and still more difficult is it to have an adequate idea of the great works that have been completed. If we only look at the single matter of railroads, and see the monuments that the present generation has raised to its industry in the network of these iron lines of communication which it has spread over the two continents, we will begin to appreciate the enterprise, intelligence, wealth and power of the men of this age. And if we turn from that which has been done, and regard only those works that are now in progress, or that have not yet advanced beyond the sphere of projects, we will see that after all that we have done we are on the threshold of still greater things to be done.

To enable our readers to appreciate the magnitude of modern projects, we have prepared and publish in our columns to-day a review, necessarily incomplete, of the vast works on which the labor and capital of the men of to-day are being expended, or are about soon to be expended. Although they embrace only works that are familiar to our readers, and do not extend to any of those projects that are being considered or carried out in those quarters of the world that are outside of the ordinary range of our influence and observation, their estimated cost amounts in the aggregate to no less than seven hundred and seventy millions of dollars. The following are the works or projects that we have specially referred to:—

Railroad—the American lines.....	\$450,000,000
Do—British line.....	150,000,000
Suez Ship Canal.....	40,000,000
Nicaragua Ship Canal.....	24,000,000
Nicaragua Falls Canal.....	10,000,000
St. Lawrence and Michigan Canal.....	18,000,000
Toronto and Georgian Bay Canal.....	15,000,000
Lake Champlain and St. Lawrence Canal.....	5,000,000
Ohio Falls Canal.....	8,000,000
Tenmile route.....	10,000,000
Houston Railroad.....	7,000,000
Central Mexican Railroad.....	15,000,000
The Victoria Bridge over the St. Lawrence at Montreal.....	10,000,000
Alps Tunnel.....	5,000,000
Rhone Tunnel.....	2,000,000
Bogen Tunnel.....	715,000
Atlantic Telegraph—Cable line.....	2,500,000
Atlantic and Pacific Telegraph.....	1,500,000
Grand total.....	\$770,715,000

This table suffices of itself to give an idea of the immense activity of the age. We have enumerated only some score of great enterprises, and yet they require for their execution the enormous sum of seven hundred and seventy millions of dollars. The picture that this presents to the mind is too sublime for criticism. We leave our readers to contemplate it at their leisure.

LOST BAGGAGE.—A CURIOUS SALE.—The General Superintendent of the New York Central Railroad has advertised a curious sale that is to take place at the company's depot in Albany, on Wednesday, the 19th of January. The property that is to be sold on that occasion consists almost entirely of personal baggage that travellers have left behind them in the cars during the years 1856 and 1857. The list runs from No. 2,107 to 2,668, comprising over six hundred packages. A large number of these wafes have been left behind at Niagara Falls and Suspension Bridge by tourists and pleasure seekers, who, in the excitement of travel and in their eagerness to see the wonders of the thundering cataract, paid far too little attention to their carpet bags and satchels, and who, failing to recover them immediately, were swept away in the currents of summer travel, abandoning their property, and leaving it in the hands of the railroad officers.

What curiosities may not come to light in the corners of black carpet bags, or in the capacious recesses of Saratoga trunks! The former may not be peculiarly interesting, as few of them will contain anything more than the shirts and socks and slippers that go to make up the *code mœurs* of a gentleman travelling for business or pleasure. But even in these little leather conveniences many small bits of romance will peep out in daguerotypes, love letters and keepsakes, which, to the lover, might be priceless, while to the finder they will only be suggestive of curious speculations.

But who would not like to have the rummaging of one of these Saratoga trunks, bearing the name of its fair owner—perhaps a blonde from merry England, or a brunette from the sunny South? Here the lucky purchaser will turn out the rich silk dress, neatly folded and deposited in its place by the careful hands of the pretty girl who will wear it no more; here the snowy chemise, with its profusion of tasteful designs wondrously wrought by the fingers of the embroiderer; here those pretty garters and exquisite little slippers to remind you of Cinderella; and here again a locket with the portrait of a lover or brother, or bracelets that may have been a sweetheart's gift. We never heard of a lottery presenting half the attractions that this prosaic sale of unclaimed baggage presents to persons of a speculative or romantic turn of mind. It is, too, a perfect lottery, for the parcels are sold unopened, and the buyer may or may not draw a prize, while, however, he cannot possibly draw a blank.

The law makes it imperative on railroad companies to advertise the sale of unclaimed baggage accumulating in this way, and the advertisement which has now attracted our attention covers four columns of a newspaper. The object of the law is, however, defeated by the company, which selects for the publication an obscure journal, of a limited circulation, simply because they get it thus published for comparatively nothing.

These sales should be published in the paper having the largest circulation throughout the country; and not only that, but the unclaimed baggage should be so advertised every quarter or half year.

This sale should not be left to the old clothes men and keepers of junk shops in Albany, but ought really to attract curiosity seekers from all parts of the country. Such a chance does not present itself every day.

THE CALIFORNIA GOLD CROP.—Perhaps the richest piece of statistical information which we annually lay before our readers is the account of the shipments of gold from California to New York—the gold that goes chiefly to pay our debts abroad and supply us with endless luxuries at home. The following is the *résumé* of California steamship operations for the expiring year:—

PASSENGERS OF CALIFORNIA STEAMERS (ATLANTIC BRANCH) IN 1858.

Names of Steamers	Date of Arrival	Day of Sailing	Days Passage	Amount of Specie
Star of the West	Jan. 10	Dec. 21	21	\$1,087,440
Star of the West	Jan. 27	Jan. 28	22	1,585,770
Star of the West	Feb. 13	Jan. 29	24	1,348,567
Star of the West	Feb. 27	Feb. 6	22	1,640,420
Star of the West	Mar. 10	Feb. 23	23	1,279,134
Star of the West	Mar. 20	Mar. 5	21	1,403,240
Star of the West	Mar. 27	Mar. 12	22	1,625,013
Star of the West	Apr. 13	Mar. 22	22	1,486,565
Star of the West	Apr. 27	Apr. 5	22	1,615,261
Star of the West	May 13	Apr. 20	22	1,675,901
Star of the West	May 27	May 7	22	1,446,176
Star of the West	June 10	May 20	22	1,709,592
Star of the West	June 27	June 6	22	1,401,714
Star of the West	July 10	June 20	22	1,185,817
Star of the West	July 27	July 6	22	1,581,516
Star of the West	Aug. 10	Aug. 20	22	1,434,674
Star of the West	Aug. 27	Sept. 6	22	1,581,788
Star of the West	Sept. 10	Sept. 20	22	1,570,924
Star of the West	Oct. 10	Oct. 21	24	1,414,703
Star of the West	Oct. 27	Oct. 28	24	1,472,979
Star of the West	Nov. 10	Nov. 20	22	1,668,664
Star of the West	Nov. 27	Nov. 28	22	1,816,256
Star of the West	Dec. 10	Nov. 20	22	1,631,511
Star of the West	Dec. 27	Dec. 6	23	1,494,379
Total.....				\$39,179,344
Total amount brought last year.....				\$34,225,904
Difference in favor of 1858.....				\$5,953,440

*One of the shipments of last year—amounting to nearly two millions of dollars—was entirely lost in the steamship *Central America*.

It will be seen that the crop is as steady as that of the great staples, corn, cotton and tobacco. The character of mining operations has changed, however. There is now but little ore found upon the surface or in placers. The inventive skill of our mechanics has been set to work to construct great machines by which the washing or quartz crushing is accomplished. The hand work was still further lessened this year, by the sudden withdrawal of no less than thirty thousand Californian miners, who turned their faces towards Fraser river. It appears, in fact, that mining operations in California are only commenced. Centuries, perhaps ages, will elapse before the quartz mines will cease to be productive; and with the new machinery and clever men to direct it, the product of each succeeding year will be greater than the preceding. The future of California is almost too grand for finite perception.

THE LATEST NEWS.

OUR SPECIAL WASHINGTON DESPATCH.
DO—DISPATCHES FROM THE GULF AND PACIFIC SQUADRONS—OPERATIONS AT TAMPICO—IMPORTANT MOVEMENTS OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, ETC.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30, 1858.
The family of Mr. Preston, Minister to Spain, left Washington to-day for New York, and the Minister will leave in a few days, with intention to sail for Europe early in January. It does not appear that Mr. Preston goes out with any well defined plan, in accordance with the general sentiment of this country and the intimations in the President's Message, to acquire Cuba or to obtain a more liberal Spanish policy in this hemisphere. It is to be hoped, however, he will have ambition enough, and that the administration will back him, to do something in accordance with the wishes of his country and the necessities of the times. The do-nothing policy of former Ministers is not up to the requirements of this great country or the movements of the age.

The Navy Department has received despatches from different commanders on the coasts of South America, Central America, Mexico and the Pacific. Their despatches contain little that has not been already published in the Herald. The Jameson was cruising between the Colorado river and Chiquila, upon no doubt watching for the filibusters expected on that coast.

The mate of the American ship *Fortitude* arrived at San Juan del Norte on the 1st inst., reporting that his ship had gone ashore at Cape Gracias a Dios. The officers and crew arrived at San Juan in her Britannic Majesty's steamship *Cesar*.

The Saratoga, Commander Turner, arrived at Tampico on the 2d inst., thirteen days from Aspinwall. The Commander went up to the city to look after the interests of American citizens. Gov. Garza has surrendered the goods seized from Mr. Schultz, an American citizen. The forced loan from another American, Mr. Bastian, had not been restored, though Garza had promised Captain Dahlgren, when there, it should be.

It is proposed there should be a caucus of Southern members of Congress from States bordering on the Gulf, and others, irrespective of party, to deliberate on a policy with regard to Mexico, to urge upon the administration the necessity of promptly settling the present opportunity to improve our relations with Mexico and to extend our influence over that country. The time is considered most favorable, and ought not to be lost by delay.

THE GENERAL NEWSPAPER DISPATCH.
NEW COMMANDER OF THE HOME SQUADRON—INTERESTING NEWS FROM CENTRAL AMERICA AND MEXICO.

Captain McClure has been appointed to the command of the Home Squadron, vice McIntosh, who will return to Georgia to recruit his health.

Information was received to-day from Nicaragua, which shows that Yriarte has not been recalled, but that his resignation as Minister to the United States, heretofore tendered, has been accepted. General Jerez is still in Washington.

The Central American States are more than ever impressed with the necessity of forming a confederation for their mutual protection.

It is said to be highly probable that Nicaragua will take no decisive action relative to the *Cas Yriarte* treaty until after the arrival of Sir Wm. G. Gassiot, who was daily expected.

The government has just received Mexican dates to November 25, which came overland by a special messenger. It appears from the official despatches that the St. Marys arrived very opportunely at Guaymas on the 16